

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 4, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 505

Introduced by Assembly Member Nazarian

February 20, 2013

An act to add Section 14029.91 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 505, as amended, Nazarian. Medi-Cal: managed care: language assistance services.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid Program provisions. Under existing law, one of the methods by which Medi-Cal services are provided is pursuant to contracts with various types of managed care plans.

This bill would require the department to require all managed care plans contracting with the department to provide Medi-Cal services to provide language assistance services, which includes interpretation and translation services, to limited-English-proficient ~~enrollees~~ *Medi-Cal beneficiaries*, as defined. *The bill would require the department to determine when a limited-English-proficient population meets the requirement for translation services, as prescribed.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 14029.91 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

14029.91. (a) The department shall require all managed care plans contracting with the department to provide Medi-Cal services to provide language assistance services to limited-English-proficient (LEP)-~~enrollees~~ *Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are mandatorily enrolled in managed care* in the following manner:

(1) Interpretation services shall be provided in any language on a 24-hour basis at all points of service.

(2) Translation services shall be provided to the language groups identified by the department.

(b) The department shall determine when an LEP population meets the requirement for translation services using one of the following numeric thresholds:

~~(1) Three thousand LEP persons eligible for Medi-Cal reside in the plan's service area, or 1,000 LEP persons eligible for Medi-Cal reside in a single ZIP Code.~~

~~(2) One thousand five hundred LEP persons eligible for Medi-Cal in two contiguous ZIP Codes reside within a health plan's service area.~~

(1) A population group of 3,000 Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are mandatorily enrolled in managed care, residing in the service area, who indicate their primary language as other than English.

(2) A population group of Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are mandatorily enrolled in managed care, residing in the service area, who indicate their primary language as other than English, and that meet a concentration standard of 1,000 beneficiaries in a single ZIP Code or 1,500 beneficiaries in two contiguous ZIP Codes.

(c) The department shall make this determination ~~annually and instruct~~ *if any of the following occurs:*

(1) *A nonmanaged care county becomes a new managed care county.*

(2) *A new population group becomes a mandatory Medi-Cal managed care beneficiary population.*

(3) *A period of three years has passed since the last determination.*

1 (d) *The department shall instruct managed care* plans, by means
2 of incorporating the requirement into plan contracts, all-plan letters,
3 or similar instructions, *of* the language groups that meet the
4 numeric thresholds.

5 ~~(d)~~

6 (e) For purposes of this section, a person is ~~“limited-English~~
7 ~~proficient”~~ *“limited-English-proficient”* if he or she speaks English
8 less than very well.

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